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# Public Notice

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**Applicant:** Ohio Department of Transportation  
**Date:** of Published:  
**Expires:**

**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**

**In Reply Refer To:**

**Buffalo District CELRB-CO-R RE: 96-493-0001(3) Section: OH 404**

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**Application for Permit under Authority of  
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).**

Mr. Gordon Proctor, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223, has applied for a Department of the Army permit for authorization to work and place fill in waters of the United States in connection with the proposed relocation of a portion of U.S. Route 30. The project is generally located between the Village of Crestline to the north and the City of Galion to the south, passing through parts of Whetstone, Jefferson, Jackson, Sandusky, and Springfield Townships, in Crawford and Richland Counties, Ohio.

Department of the Army (DA) authorization is required to fill a total of 6.21 acres of waters of the U.S., including 3.78 acres of wetland (parts of 26 separate wetlands), 0.77 acre of ponds (2 ponds), and approximately 1.66 acres of streams (a total of 7,251 linear feet of 16 separate streams and/or agricultural ditches). The proposed project is part of a State-wide master plan to upgrade U.S. Route 30 to a minimum four-lane divided highway across the state of Ohio. The current project will connect U.S. Route 30 at the west end of the Ontario Bypass to the east end of the Bucyrus Bypass. The total length of the project is approximately 16.31 miles passing through predominately rural countryside. The roadway section is comprised of two 12-foot wide lanes in each direction, 10-foot outside shoulders, and a 60-foot wide grass median. The limited access right-of-way footprint is generally 300 feet wide, varying in width especially at side roads, interchanges and railroad crossings. Access will be provided by a total of five full access interchanges. The proposed interchanges will include the partially completed interchanges with existing U.S. Route 30 at the eastern and western termini of the project. The other three interchanges will be located at SR 602, SR 598, and SR 61. Construction activities include grading, sloping, placing culverts, construction of new roadway, mainline and side road bridges and interchanges.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of wetlands through the use of 8.63 acres (credits) at the Big Island Wetland Mitigation Bank near Marion, Ohio. The applicant proposes on-site stream mitigation that will include the use of bankfull culverts, reconstruction of many drainageways upstream and downstream of the proposed crossings using natural channel design techniques.

These techniques will include the planting of native vegetation, the incorporation of pools, riffles, and benches, and adding meanders or sinuosity as appropriate for the water course.

Materials related to this project can be viewed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, at the Ohio Department of Transportation District 3 Office, located at 906 North Clark Street, Ashland, Ohio, telephone: (800) 276-4188.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Kathleen M. Ryan, who can be contacted by calling (716) 879-4392, or by e-mail at: [kathleen.m.ryan@usace.army.mil](mailto:kathleen.m.ryan@usace.army.mil)

The following authorization(s) may be required for this project:

Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

There are no registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207-3199, and should be marked to the attention of Kathleen M. Ryan, or by e-mail at: [kathleen.m.ryan@usace.army.mil](mailto:kathleen.m.ryan@usace.army.mil). A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood

plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Paul G. Leuchner  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.